CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1   1.   A computer implemented method for facilitating the
2 exchange of investment information between human users in a
3 networked computer environment, comprising the steps of:

4   receiving an information request or query from a human
5   user via a user email account, wherein the information request
6   does not specify a source from which the requested information
7   can be obtained;

8   soliciting the requested information from a database of
9   qualified consultants;

10   determining whether a qualified consultant user wishes to
11   provide the requested information;

12   receiving the requested information or answer from the
13   qualified consultant via a computer; and

14   sending the requested information to the customer user via
15   the customer's email account.

1   2.   A computer implemented method for facilitating the
2 exchange of investment information between human users in a
3 networked computer environment, comprising the steps of:

4   receiving an information request or query from a human
5   user via a database;

6   determining whether a qualified consultant user wishes to
7   provide the requested information;

8   soliciting the requested information from qualified
9   consultants in the database;

10   receiving the requested information or answer from the
11   qualified consultant via a computer; and

12   sending to the customer user notification that information is
13   available via the customer's email account.

1   3.   The method of claim 2, the method further comprising the
2   step of screening consultants based on certain criteria.

1   4.   The method of claim 3, wherein the criteria are selected
2   from the group consisting of geographical location, education,
3   licensure, years of experience and combinations thereof.

1   5.   The method of claim 2, further comprising the step of
2   accessing the database to obtain the requested information.

1   6.   The method of claim 5, wherein the database is accessed
2   via a hyperlink to the database user interface.

1   7.   The method of claim 2, further comprising the step of
2   translating the query from an origin language to a target language
3   before being made available to the consultant.

1   8.   The method of claim 7, wherein the query or the answer
2   are in a language other than English.

1   9.   The method of claim 8, wherein the language is selected
2   from the group consisting of Afrikaans, Aleut, Aninishinaabe
3   (Chippewa/Ojibwe), Arabic, Armenian, Azerbaijani, Basque, Bengali,
4   Bosnian, Braille, Bulgarian, Chamorro, Cherokee, Cheyenne, Chinese,
5   Chinook, Choctaw, Cornish, Cree, Croatian, Czech, Dakota, Dutch,

6 Esperanto, Estonian, Farsi/Persion, Finnish, French, Georgian, German,

7 Greek, Gujarati, Hawaiian, Hebrew, Hindi, Hmong, Hungarian, Hupa,

8 Icelandic, Indonesian, Inuktitut, Inupiaq, Irish (Gaelic) Italian, Japanese,

9 Kikuyu, Kiribati, Korean, Kurdish, Latin, Latvian, Lithuanian, Luganda,

10 Malaysian, Maltese, Maori, Mayan, Miwok, Mohawk, Mon, Mongolian,

11 Nahuatl (Aztec), Navajo, Ndbele, Norwegian, Paiute, Polish,

12 Portuguese, Potawatomi, Quechua, Romanian Russian, Saami (Lapp),

13 Samoan, Scottish Gaelic, Seneca (Mingo), Serbian, Sesotho, Shona,

14 Sign Language, Sinhalese, Spanish, Swahili, Swedish, Tagalog, Tahitian,

15 Tai, Tamil, Tibetan, Tlingit, Turkish, Urdu, Ukrainian, Vietnamese, Welsh,

16 Xhosa, Yiddish, Yupik and Zulu.

1   10.   The method of claim 2, wherein the requested information

2 is solicited from qualified consultants via an email information request

3 generated by the database.

1   11.   The method of claim 10, wherein the email information

2 request does not identify the user that initiated the information request.

1   12.   An article of manufacture comprising a computer-

2 readable medium having stored thereon instructions adapted to be

3 executed by a processor, the instructions which, when executed,

4 define a series of steps to facilitate a user's ability to obtain financial

5 information from a consultant, said steps comprising:

6   receiving an information request from a human user via a

7   database;

8   determining whether a qualified consultant user wishes to

9   provide the requested information;

10   soliciting the requested information from qualified

11   consultants in the database;

12   receiving the requested information from the qualified
13   consultant via a computer; and

14   sending to the customer user notification that information is
15   available via the customer's email account..

1   13.   The article of manufacture of 12, further comprising the
2   step of screening consultants based on certain criteria.

1   14.   The article of manufacture of claim 13, wherein the criteria
2   are selected from the group consisting of geographical location,
3   education, licensure, years of experience and combinations thereof.

1   15.   The article of manufacture claim 12, further comprising the
2   step of accessing the database to obtain the requested information.

1   16.   The article of manufacture of claim 15, wherein the
2   database is accessed via a hyperlink to the database user interface.

1   17.   The method of claim 12, further comprising the step of
2   translating the query from an origin language to a target language
3   before being made available to the consultant.

1   18.   The method of claim 17, wherein the query or the answer
2   are in a language other than English.

1   19.   The method of claim 18, wherein the language is selected
2   from the group consisting of Afrikaans, Aleut, Aninishinaabe
3   (Chippewa/Ojibwe), Arabic, Armenian, Azerbaijani, Basque, Bengali,
4   Bosnian, Braille, Bulgarian, Chamorro, Cherokee, Cheyenne, Chinese,
5   Chinook, Choctaw, Cornish, Cree, Croatian, Czech, Dakota, Dutch,
6   Esperanto, Estonian, Farsi/Persion, Finnish, French, Georgian, German,
7   Greek, Gujarati, Hawaiian, Hebrew, Hindi, Hmong, Hungarian, Hupa,
8   Icelandic, Indonesian, Inuktitut, Inupiaq, Irish (Gaelic) Italian, Japanese,

9 Kikuyu, Kiribati, Korean, Kurdish, Latin, Latvian, Lithuanian, Luganda,

10 Malaysian, Maltese, Maori, Mayan, Miwok, Mohawk, Mon, Mongolian,

11 Nahuatl (Aztec), Navajo, Ndbele, Norwegian, Paiute, Polish,

12 Portuguese, Potawatomi, Quechua, Romanian Russian, Saami (Lapp),

13 Samoan, Scottish Gaelic, Seneca (Mingo), Serbian, Sesotho, Shona,

14 Sign Language, Sinhalese, Spanish, Swahili, Swedish, Tagalog, Tahitian,

15 Tai, Tamil, Tibetan, Tlingit, Turkish, Urdu, Ukrainian, Vietnamese, Welsh,

16 Xhosa, Yiddish, Yupik and Zulu.

1 20. The method of claim 12, wherein the requested

2 information is solicited from qualified consultants via an email

3 information request generated by the database.

1 21. The method of claim 20, wherein the email information

2 request does not identify the user that initiated the information request.